



# Operation, Organization, and Transition of the Nevada Network of Fire Adapted Communities

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# Talking Points

- ▶ Fire Adapted Communities
- ▶ Transition of the Network
- ▶ Organization of the Network
- ▶ Operations of the Network
- ▶ Current Activities of the Coordinator
- ▶ Strategic Plan and Long Term Goals
- ▶ Q&A Session



# What is a Fire Adapted Community?

- ▶ National Cohesive Strategy
- ▶ “A human community consisting of informed and prepared citizens collaboratively planning and taking action to safely coexist with wildland fire.”- NWCG
- ▶ Informed
- ▶ Prepared
- ▶ Stakeholder Responsibility
- ▶ Collaborative Planning
- ▶ Coexisting with Wildland Fire



## **Fire Adapted Community (FAC):**

A community located in a fire-prone area that requires little assistance from firefighters during a wildfire. Residents of these communities accept responsibility for living in a high fire-hazard area. They possess the knowledge and skills to...

- Prepare their homes and property to survive wildfire.
- Evacuate early, safely and effectively.
- Survive, if trapped by wildfire.

### ***A Fire Adapted Community Can Survive Wildfire With Little or No Assistance from Firefighters.***

#### ***Before the Fire***



#### ***During the Fire***



#### ***After the Fire***



*Prior to the fire, this homeowner changed the roof material from wood shakes to fire-resistant tiles and reduced the amount of flammable vegetation surrounding the home. These pre-fire activities helped this house survive the fire.*



## Community Protection

Well-designed fuelbreaks and safe areas protect the community.

## Defensible Space

Proper management of vegetation surrounding the home reduces the wildfire threat.



## Access

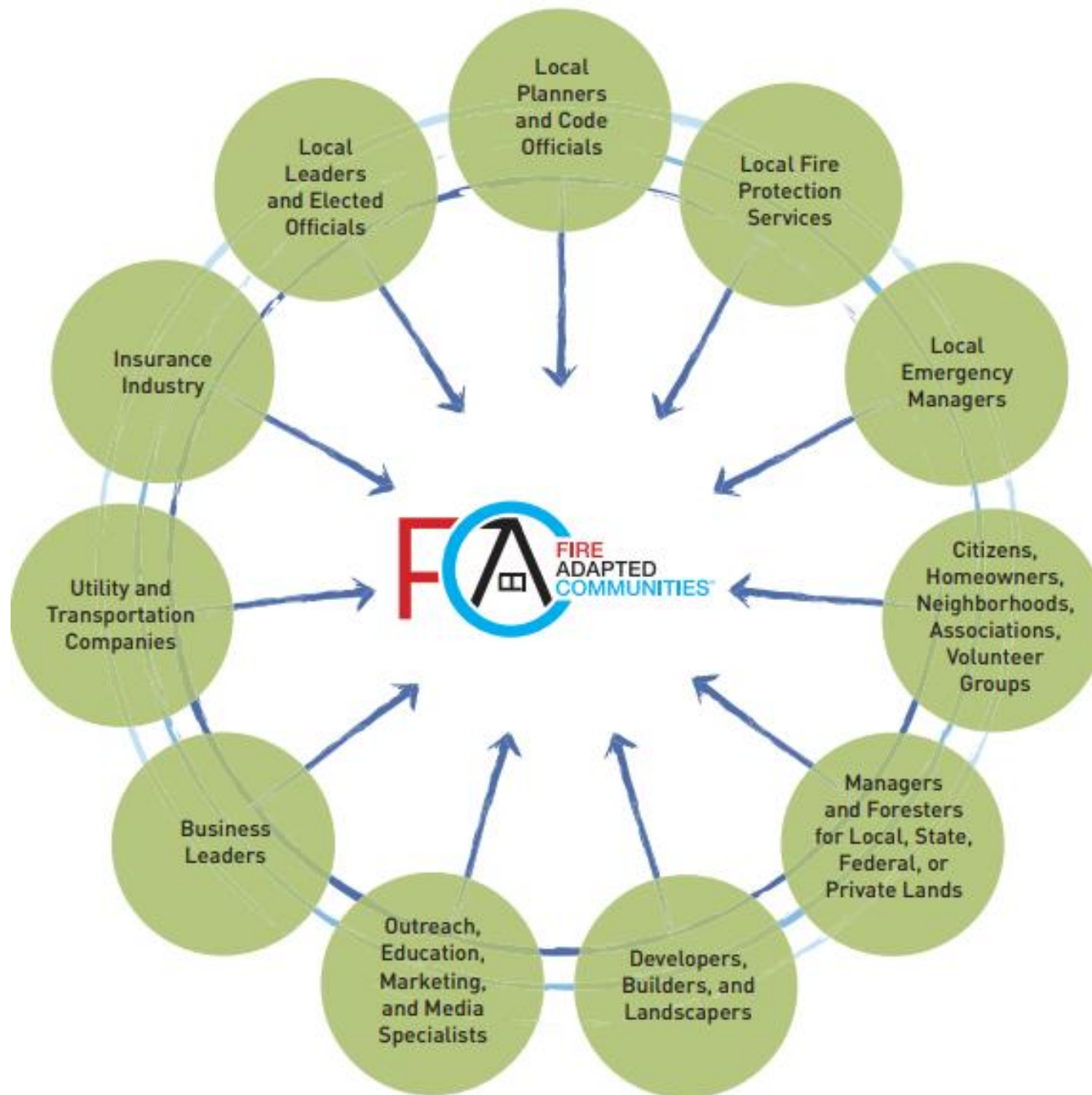
Good access helps emergency responders arrive in a timely manner.

## Evacuation

Prepared communities can evacuate safely and effectively.

## Built Environment

Appropriate home construction and maintenance resists ignition.





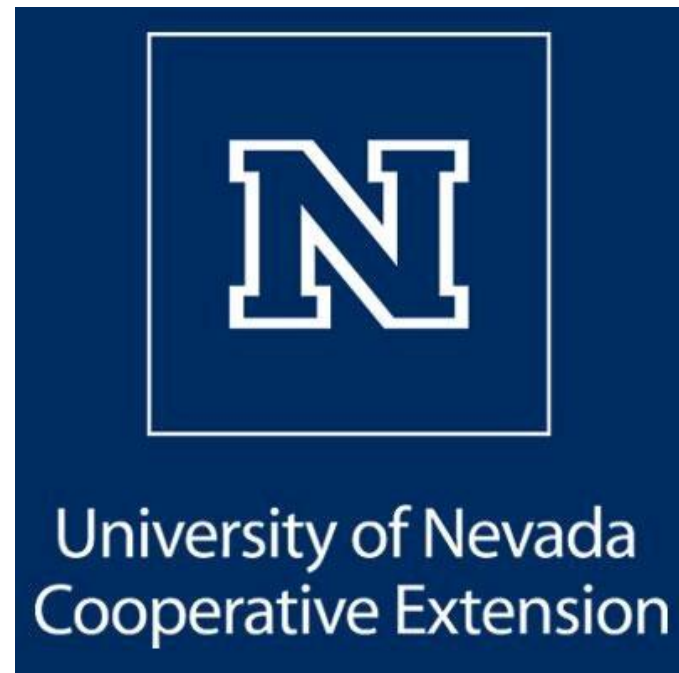
# Wildland Fire and Nevada Communities

- ▶ Fire Behavior is more unpredictable
- ▶ Expanding WUI
- ▶ Loss of structures and natural resources
- ▶ The Network addresses these problems by:
  - ▶ Helping to create collaborative teams for fuel mitigation and wildfire planning.
  - ▶ Establishing current level of risk of wildfires to communities and take action to reduce those risks.
  - ▶ Mobilizing communities to act and helping to connect community leaders and residents with resources to address the threat of wildland fire.



# Transition of the Network

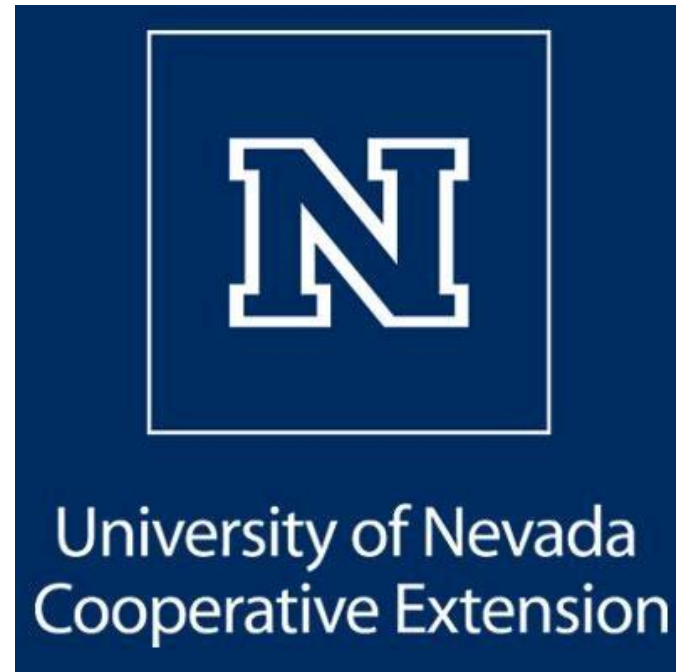
- ▶ Initial focus will be the Western Region and will grow as we become better established and secure more funding
- ▶ NDF provides unique advantages to the network such as technical expertise, implementation resources, fiscal oversight, public outreach, grant management, legal, and logistical support.
- ▶ The Network will continue to work with Cooperative Extension's Living with Fire to provide accessible, science-based fire information to Nevada communities





# Transition of the Network Cont.

- ▶ Cooperative Extension, NDF, and the Network Advisory Board are a collaborative team working to:
  1. Develop the Network's layout and organizational procedures
  2. Promote the Network and recruit new members
  3. Maintain the Network's website
  4. Maintain the production of the Network Pulse Newsletter
  5. Draft, review, and finalize a Chapter Leader Handbook
  6. Plan and facilitate the Annual Network Conference



# Network Mission

- ▶ “Foster the wide spread occurrence of Fire Adapted Communities where Nevadans living with the threat of wildfire fully prepare themselves, their homes, and the landscape where they reside to survive the destructive force of wildfire.
- ▶ People, Homes, Landscapes
- ▶ Community Focused



# Vision of the Network

- ▶ People living in vulnerable wildland urban interface locations, will become active members of The Network and form enduring partnerships with fire services and other relevant organizations and individuals to create a community culture that continuously mitigates the threat and elevates the probability of people, structures and landscapes surviving the occurrence of wildfire.

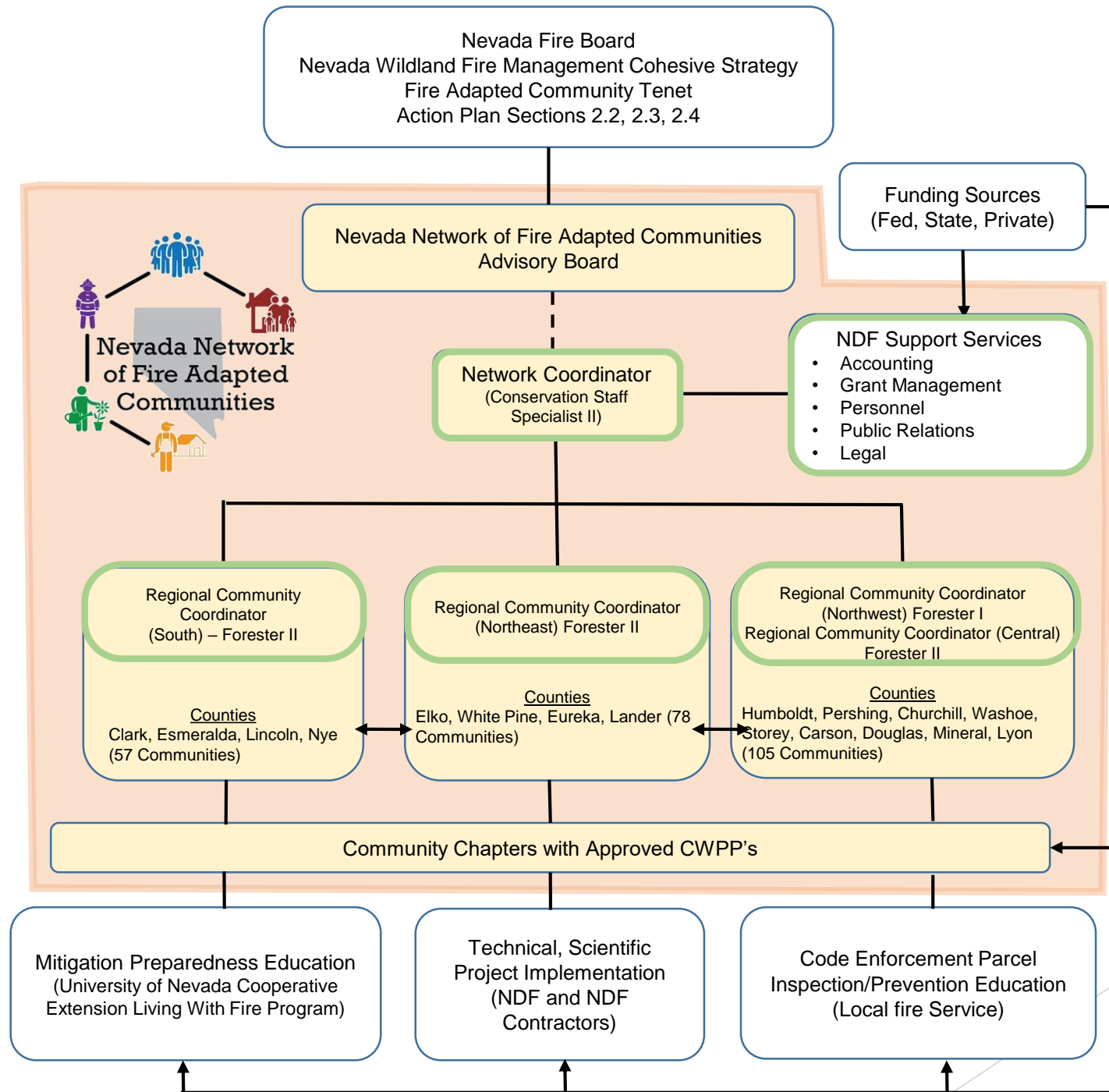




# Network Goals and Objectives

- ▶ Formal goals and objectives will be codified in Network strategic plan
- ▶ Complete the transition of the Network from UNCE to NDF
- ▶ Educate communities, residents, and local governments and other cooperators about the wildland fire threat and Fire Adapted Communities
- ▶ Connect Network communities with resources to complete CWPPs, prioritized project lists, and funding opportunities.
- ▶ Ensure resilient landscapes are being managed in conjunction with Fire Adapted Community concepts





Individual Member

Community Chapter

Local Agencies and  
Districts

State/ Federal  
Agencies and  
Districts

Network Region

Network Coordinator

Network Advisory  
Board

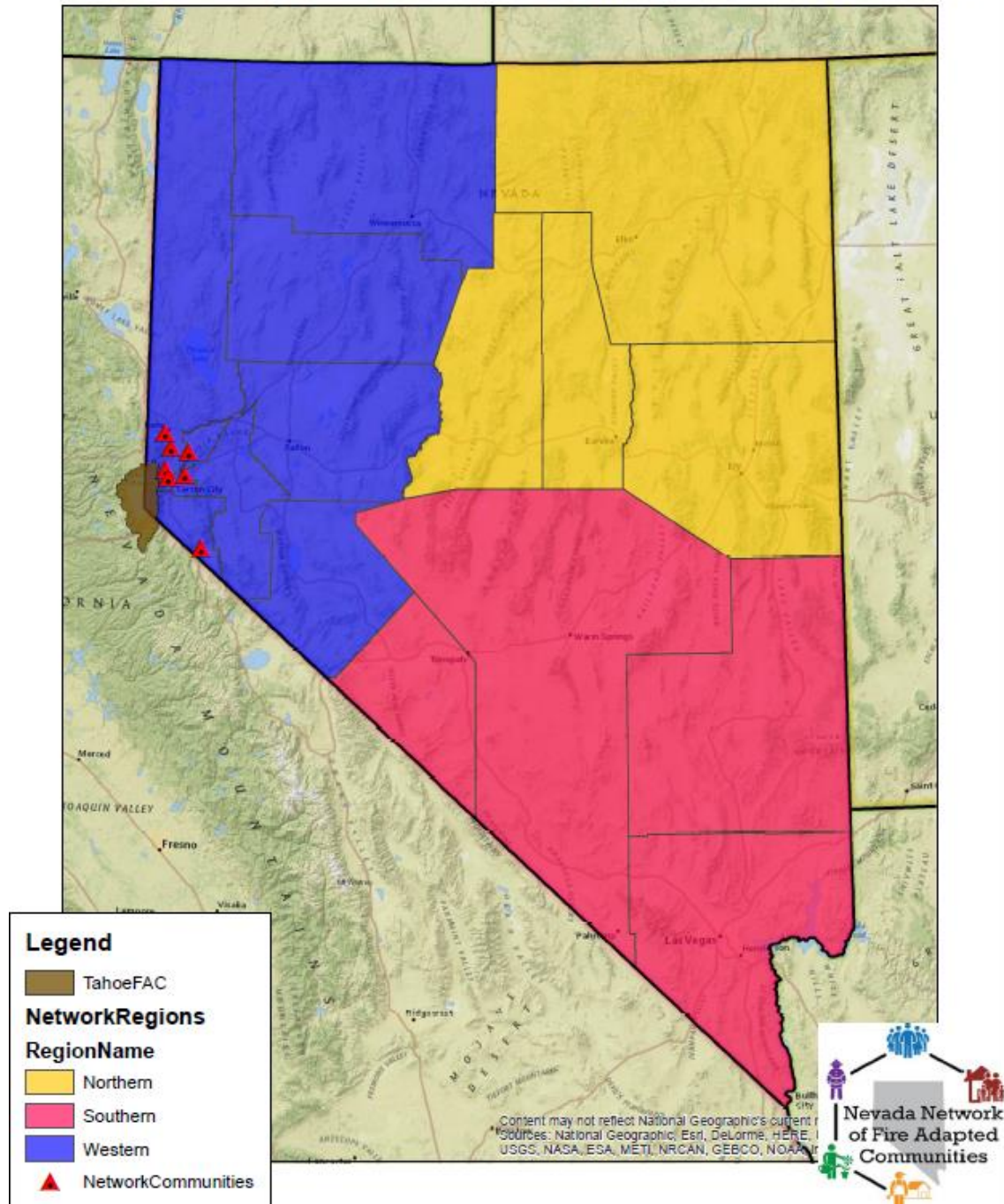


# Network Linkages

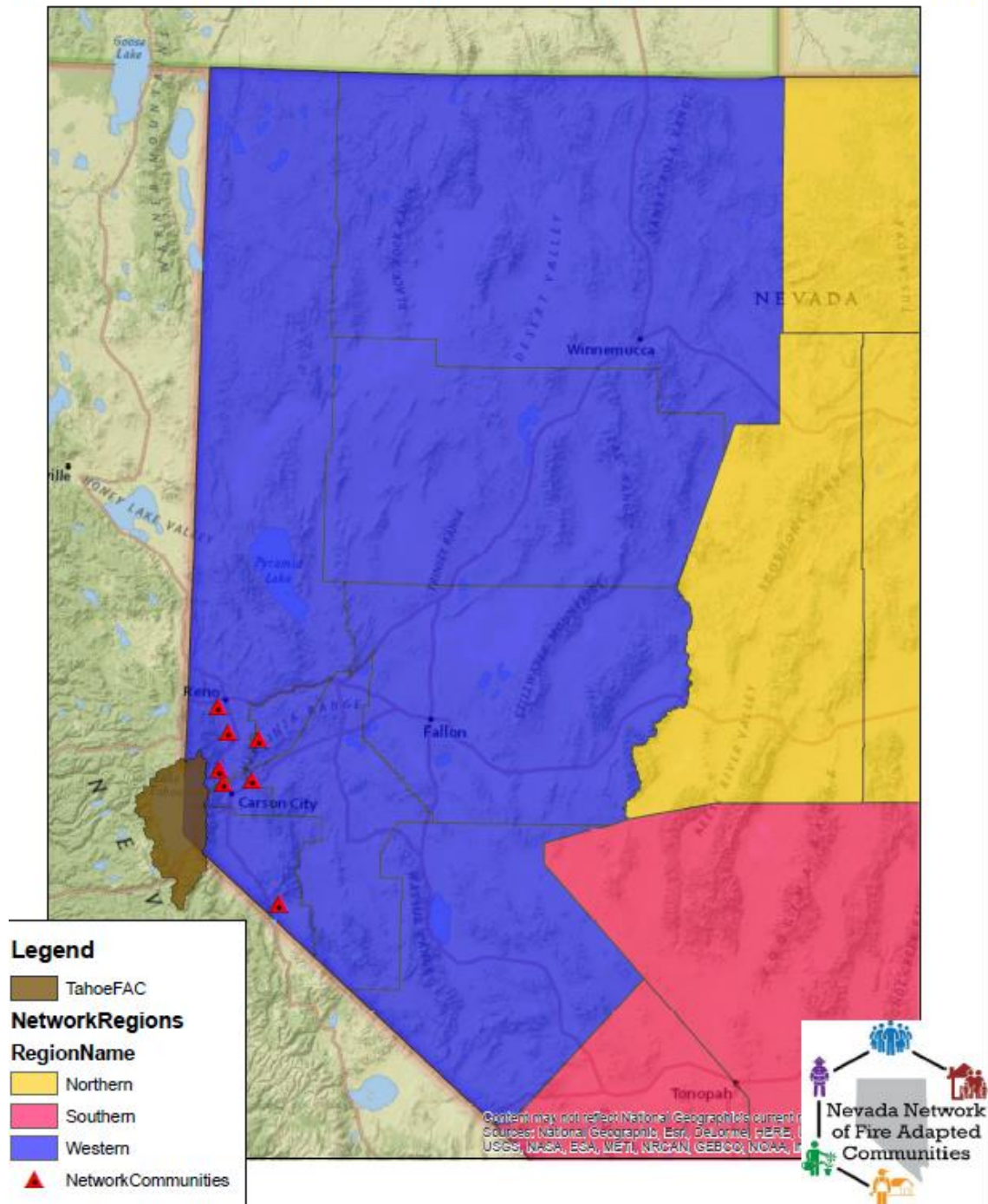
- ▶ Network's ultimate purpose is to help communities threatened by wildfire get information, ideas, influence, and resources to become fire adapted
- ▶ Friends, Neighbors, local fire districts and agencies are important assets!
- ▶ Individual members should tap into those networks to help their community become more fire adapted and make their landscapes fire resilient.
- ▶ Communities that develop and maintain their network are less vulnerable and can tackle wildfire issues more effectively



# Nevada Network of Fire Adapted Communities Regional Map



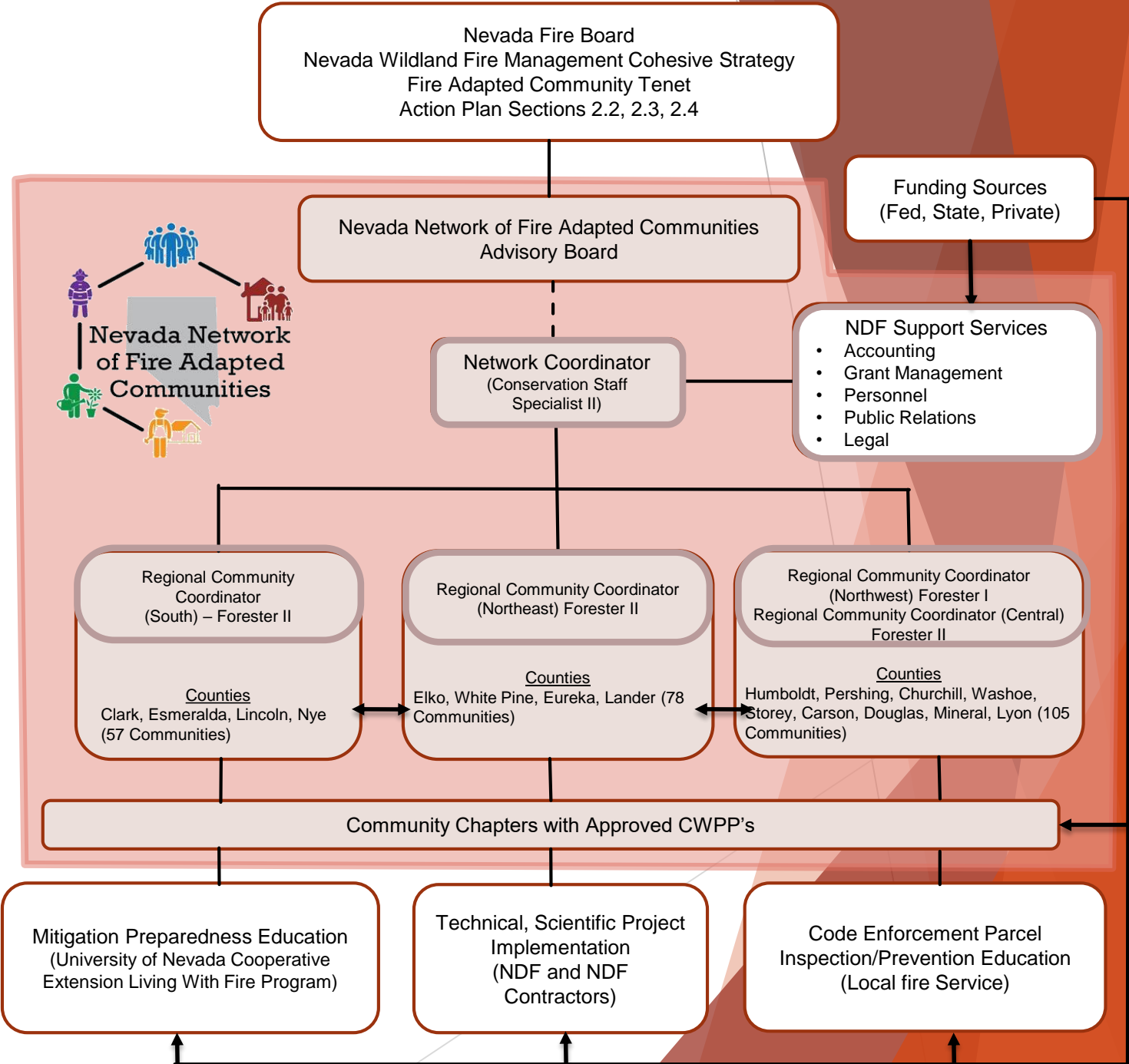
# Nevada Network of Fire Adapted Communities Western Region





# Network Staff

- ▶ NDF Support Staff
- ▶ Network Coordinator
- ▶ Regional Community Coordinators



# Advisory Board Purpose

- ▶ Guide the development and implementation of the Network
- ▶ Ensure Network Staff and partners meet and are working towards the Network's goals and objectives
- ▶ Provide insight from their particular position, community, or agency.
- ▶ Assist Coordinator in developing Network's social capital.



# Organization of the Network- Advisory Board

- ▶ Western Community Representative (elected)
- ▶ Northern Community Representative (elected)
- ▶ Southern Community Representative (elected)
  
- ▶ Appointed Representatives from:
  - ▶ Bureau of Land Management
  - ▶ US Forest Service
  - ▶ Nevada Division of Forestry
  - ▶ University of Nevada Cooperative Extension
  - ▶ Nevada Fire Chiefs Association
  - ▶ American Planning Association- NV Chapter
  - ▶ Nevada Landscape Council
  - ▶ Nevada Insurance Council
  - ▶ Nevada Association of Counties
  - ▶ Nevada League of Cities





# Advisory Board Community Representatives

- ▶ Community representatives help guide the Network and provide a unique perspective to the advisory board.
- ▶ Board members must:
- ▶ Be at least 18 years of age
- ▶ Be a Nevada resident, from a Nevada-based organization, or occupy a residence within an NDF region.
- ▶ Have a demonstrated interest in the reduction of the fire threat to Nevada communities
- ▶ Be a member of the Network in good standing
- ▶ Be willing to actively advance the mission of the Network
- ▶ Attend Advisory Board Meetings quarterly
- ▶ The Network is actively seeking community representatives for the Southern and Northern Regions.

# Nomination and Election of Community Representatives

- ▶ Any person residing in the region may nominate a qualified person to serve as a regional representative.
- ▶ Nominees must express their willingness to serve and must make a statement of interest.
- ▶ Individual members of the Network may vote for representatives within the region they reside or own property in.
- ▶ The advisory board may initiate elections to fill vacant community representative slots at any time.



# Network Membership





# Individual Network Membership

- ▶ Individuals who live or own property that is threatened by wildfire may join the Network as an individual member.
- ▶ Individual members may affiliate with any community chapter where they live or own property.
- ▶ \$15.00 annual membership fee that supports Network outreach efforts to individual and community members.
- ▶ Apply FAC principles to their residence and property
- ▶ Status of current Network Members



# Individual Network Membership Benefits

- ▶ Receive information, education, and training related to wildfire planning, mitigation, and preparedness.
- ▶ Acquire the technical knowledge to more effectively influence local planning and decision-making activities in your area.
- ▶ Opportunity to serve as a community representative on the advisory board and assist in the guidance of the Network.





# Individual Network Membership Benefits Cont.

- ▶ Supporting an organization that directly works to reduce the threat of wildfire.
- ▶ Increase the survivability of your home and community by becoming more fire adapted.
- ▶ Opportunity to join with other individual members to form a local community chapter which could increase the opportunities for state, federal, and local funding for wildfire planning and mitigation projects.





# Network Membership



# Community Chapter Membership

- ▶ Individual members form a local action group to address their community vulnerability to wildfire.
- ▶ Community Chapter Proposals Must Include:
- ▶ A completed Community Chapter Application
- ▶ Involvement and commitment of two founding members
- ▶ Designation of chapter boundaries that do not overlap with other chapters
- ▶ Propose a chapter name
- ▶ Develop a sustainable leadership system
- ▶ Support the Network's vision and mission
- ▶ No annual fee will be assessed to Community Chapters





# Community Chapter Responsibilities

- ▶ Create or update your Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) with support from the Network.
- ▶ Create a prioritized action plan to become a Fire Adapted Community (FAC)
- ▶ Conduct an annual Fire Adapted Community event
- ▶ Document community investment of \$2 per capita that contribute to fully preparing the community for wildfire
- ▶ Provide an annual progress report to the Advisory Board that details your Chapter's progress towards becoming a FAC.





# Community Network Membership Benefits

- ▶ Supporting an organization that directly works to reduce the threat of wildfire.
- ▶ Having a resource that can provide assistance with CWPP planning and FAC action planning.
- ▶ Having a resource that can connect your community to additional resources for assistance.



# Community Network Membership Benefits Cont.

- ▶ Assistance with preparing proposals to secure grant funding for high priority wildfire mitigation projects.
- ▶ Support for your annual FAC community event.
- ▶ Assistance in making educational material available to your community.



# Network Membership





# Current Activities of the Coordinator

- ▶ Working with the Advisory Board to finalize the Operating Manual, Chapter application, and Individual Member application.
- ▶ Developing FAC annual progress report template.
- ▶ Develop a community leader handbook with the Advisory Board
- ▶ Develop a Network website and online CWPP repository
- ▶ Mapping Regions and community chapters
- ▶ Contribute articles to state and regional newsletters that highlight Network success stories
- ▶ Developing and facilitating community relationships





# Network Strategic Plan

- ▶ The coordinator and Advisory Board will develop a strategic plan to advance the mission of the Network.
- ▶ The Strategic Plan will address:
- ▶ Expansion of Network Staff
- ▶ Establish Network's strategy to implement FACs statewide according to the mission and vision.
- ▶ Identify potential strengths and weaknesses of the Network
- ▶ Identify key strategies to meet Network's objectives
- ▶ Establish a timeline for meeting our goals and objectives.



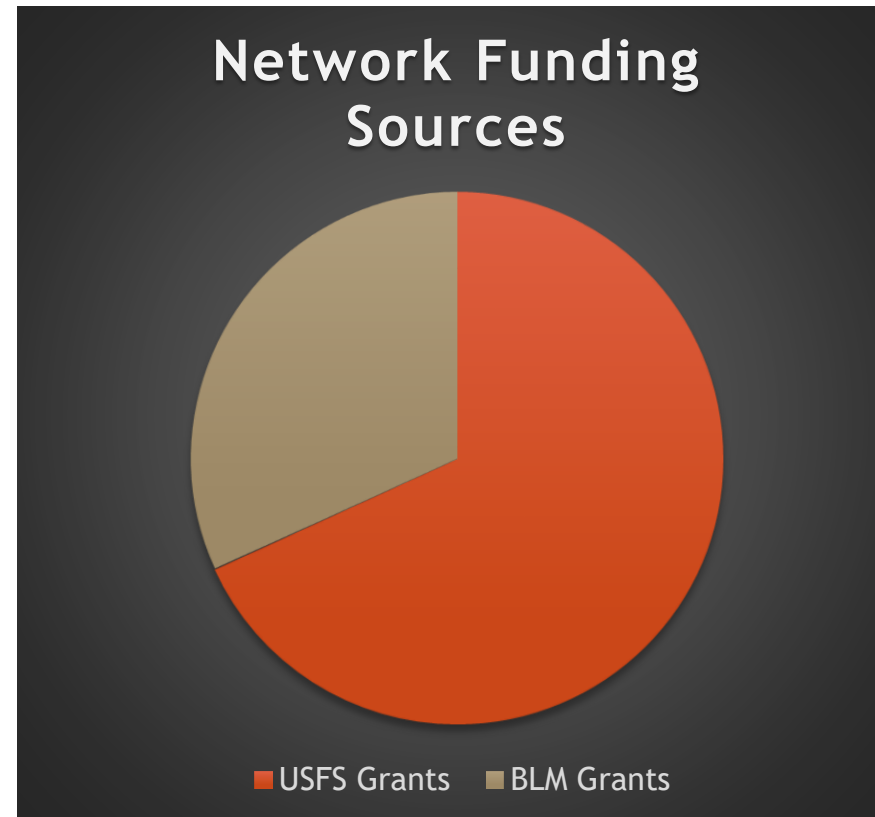
# Network Long Term Goals

- ▶ Ensure wildfire is publicly recognized as a leading public health and safety threat.
- ▶ Secure stable and long-term funding
- ▶ Maximize the number of FACs
- ▶ Minimize loss of life and property to wildfires
- ▶ Formalize the steps for FAC planning and implementation
- ▶ Network growth and linkage



# Network Financial Outlook

- ▶ Currently supported by four grants from the USFS and BLM
- ▶ Funding expected to last 2 ½ years with Coordinator
- ▶ Coordinator is actively seeking grant funds to fund the Network and future community coordinators.



# Challenges for the Network

- ▶ Securing grant funding for long term sustainability.
- ▶ Identifying the Network's role in wildfire mitigation projects
- ▶ Define the operating relationship between the Advisory Board, Network Staff, local cooperators, and community chapters
- ▶ Maintaining stakeholder "buy-in"





# Recent Network Success Stories

- ▶ Functioning Advisory Board
- ▶ Hiring a new Coordinator
- ▶ Continued partnership with UNCE “Living with Fire” program
- ▶ Development of Operating Manual
- ▶ Draft membership applications
- ▶ Funding to back Coordinator for 2.5 years
- ▶ Support from federal, state, county, and local partners is strong



Questions?

